

Press ReleaseNational Labor Relations Board

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Contact:

Office of Public Affairs 202-273-1991 publicinfo@nlrb.gov www.nlrb.gov

New Board Members Take Office, Announce Chief Counsels

Board Members Craig Becker and Mark Gaston Pearce took office this week and began a series of orientation programs about the Board, its organizational procedures and case inventory.

Mr. Becker was sworn in to office on Monday by General Counsel Ronald Meisburg. Mr. Pearce was sworn in this morning by Chairman Wilma Liebman. Today the two new members were to meet with Chairman Liebman and Member Peter Schaumber and with their staffs.

Mr. Pearce has named Kent Y. Hirozawa as his Chief Counsel. Mr. Hirozawa, a partner in the New York law firm of Gladstein, Reif, and Meginniss, has represented unions and workers for over twenty years and writes frequently on labor law issues. Prior to joining the firm, he served as a field attorney with Region 2 (New York, NY) of the National Labor Relations Board and as a law clerk in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He received his B.A. from Yale University in 1977 and his J.D. from NYU in 1982.

Mr. Becker has named Peter D. Winkler as his Chief Counsel. Mr. Winkler has worked at the NLRB since 1977 and served as Chief Counsel to former Members Dennis P. Walsh, Ronald Meisburg, and R. Alexander Acosta. He also was managing supervisor in the Appellate Court Branch, Division of Enforcement. Mr. Winkler received his B.A. from Amherst College in 1973, his M.A. from the University of Chicago, and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. Mr. Winkler's father was a career Board attorney who began his service in 1938.

The seating of Mr. Becker and Mr. Pearce brings the Board to four members with one remaining vacancy. Chairman Wilma Liebman and Member Peter Schaumber acted as a two-member Board for 27 months, beginning in January 2008. During that time, they decided a total of 595 cases.

"Member Schaumber and I welcome our new colleagues and look forward to working with them," said Chairman Liebman. "I'd also like to take this opportunity to praise my long-term colleague Member Schaumber for his willingness to engage during this challenging period, and to credit him with our success in deciding so many cases under these unusual circumstances."

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency vested with the power to safeguard employees' rights to organize and to determine whether to have unions as their bargaining representative. The agency also acts to prevent and remedy unfair labor practices committed by private sector employers and unions.

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